AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A keyboard device for key inputting by selecting any one of two functions ~~affected~~<u>effected</u> by certain keys on a keyboard, wherein <u>a sensor detects</u> ~~whether~~ <u>a</u> hand~~s~~ of a user <u>or a proximity of said hand</u> ~~are present~~ at ~~the~~<u>a</u> home position ~~is detected by a sensor~~, and <u>said</u> one of ~~the~~ two functions ~~affected~~<u>effected</u> by said certain keys is selected based on the result of the detection by said sensor.

3. (currently amended) A keyboard device for key inputting by selecting any one of two functions ~~affected~~<u>effected</u> by certain keys on a keyboard, comprising:

a sensor for detecting ~~whether~~<u>a presence of a</u> hand~~s~~ of a user ~~are present~~ at ~~the~~<u>a</u> home position;

a function switching key to select one of said two functions by pressing a key;

a sensor validating/invalidating switch to changeover the validation/invalidation of the detection result of said sensor; and

a control section for selecting said function according to the detection result of said sensor when said sensor validating/invalidating switch is validated, and by said function switching key when ~~the same~~<u>said validating/invalidating switch</u> is invalidated.

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5. (currently amended) A keyboard device for key inputting by selecting any one of two

functions ~~affected~~effected by certain keys on a keyboard, comprising:

a function switching key to changeover the function to be selected each time ~~when~~ it is

pressed down;

a sensor, which is active (ON state) when hands of a user are present at a ~~the~~ home

position and inactive (OFF state) when they are not at the home position; and

a control section for monitoring respective events of press-down of said function

switching key, transitions from ON state to OFF state of said sensor and from OFF state to ON

state of said sensor, and selecting alternatively said two functions, each time ~~when~~that one of the

events occurs.

7. (currently amended)   A keyboard device, comprising:

a first group of keys provided on a keyboard;

a sensor for detecting ~~whether~~the presence of hands of a user ~~are present~~ at a ~~the~~ home

position of said ~~this~~ first group of keys;

a second group of keys provided on ~~this~~a side opposite to said first group of keys taking

said sensor as a border; and

a control section for monitoring a ~~the~~ detection result of said sensor and disabling an ~~the~~

input by said second group of keys when ~~while~~ said sensor detects hands.

12.   (New) A method of key input function selection, comprising:

detecting by a sensor a presence of one of a user's hand and a proximity of said hand at a home position of a keyboard device; and

selecting a function of a certain key coupled to said keyboard based on said detecting by said sensor.

13.   (New) The method of claim 12, wherein said certain key is a key with a numeric input function and a cursor shift function.